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prosaic, while his account is so faithful and complete that no American lawyer, seeking to understand the English system, can do without this book. Only by tracing the subject historically and critically can one understand such a thing as the early willingness to dispense with pleadings in certain causes and the success of efforts in this direction.

The actual constitution of the rule-making authority is a matter of the greatest present interest to progressive lawyers in a number of states. Chapter XVI, entitled *Rule-Making in the Courts of the Empire*, is especially informative. Here is related briefly the operation of the principle in Scotland, Ireland, the Canadian provinces, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, and the island possessions of the Pacific and the Caribbean. Various experiments have been made in respect to the make-up of the rules committee. There is still agitation on this point at home. Success has undoubtedly attended the coupling of the bar with the bench. In all these experiments there are lessons for American lawyers now approaching a new era which promises ultimate success, but undoubtedly has its own special risks. Emphasis falls upon organized responsibility. Our decentralized judicial systems cannot easily assume this new and necessary function of regulating procedure. While we cannot imitate the forms worked out in British jurisdictions we can accept the principles involved and work them out in practical fashion.

The thoroughness of the author's work is evidenced by the fullness of citations backed up by tables of cases, statutes, and books to which reference is made. The style of composition is admirable, but upon this readers of the LAW REVIEW have had opportunity already to bestow appreciation.

Herbert Harley.

Chicago.

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A TREATISE ON THE RESCISSION OF CONTRACTS AND CANCELLATION OF WRITTEN INSTRUMENTS. By Henry Campbell Black. Vol. I, Pp. xxvi, 837. Vol. II, Pp. xiv, 837 to 1779. Kansas City, Mo.: Vernon Law Book Co., 1916.

To the practicing lawyer Mr. Black's publication will prove valuable in several ways. It is a very complete index-digest of the law of Rescission and Cancellation, and it deals sufficiently with general principles to enable the mere plodder along the dusty highway to scent broad fields of legal speculation and theory which lie beyond the boundary lines of precedent and judicial decision. The subject has not heretofore been separately treated, and as it forms a very important part of the private law and is the basis of much litigation, Mr. Black's volume cannot fail to prove useful to the bar.

With this acknowledgment of its unquestionable value to the working lawyer is coupled an expression of regret that it is not the text-book that the student needs or is awaiting. Unfortunately, text-writers, like our author, assume the yoke of the law that is imposed by the courts and give us a restatement of judicial decision and reasoning instead of a treatment of the subject matter from the point of view of the investigator and scholar who, like Professor Wigmore in his monumental work on Evidence, seeks everywhere for light which may bring out the principle which is the ultimate

object of his search. One may read a book like Mr. Black's without being aware of the fact that scores of valuable articles that would illuminate his special sub-topics lie buried in the periodical legal literature. It is only by a use of this literature as well as of the literature of comparative jurisprudence and of the opinions and speculations of publicists, economists and theorists that any real advance in the science of the law can be made. Judge Story is quoted by Judge Keener as having said "tell me not of the last-cited case having overruled any great principle,—not at all. Give me the *principle*, even if you find it laid down in the institutes of Hindu law." There is no doubt that eventually legal writers will learn to use this great and growing periodical literature and will no longer confine themselves merely to reproducing the opinions of our courts.

*David Werner Amram.*

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BETTER CITY PLANNING FOR BRIDGEPORT. By John Nolen and Frank B. Williams. Pp. xx, 159. Bridgeport, Conn.: City Planning Commission, 1916.

Laborers sent to the city's almshouse because they could not at the prevailing rate of wages for unskilled labor (\$12 a week) afford to rent a home, a situation declared not to be unique, is the compelling reason Mr. Nolen gives to the citizens of Bridgeport, Connecticut, for real planning by and for the city of the future. The city at present with a population of 150,000 (an increase of fifty per cent. in twenty war months) expects soon to have a population of 250,000. The main survey, "Better City Planning for Bridgeport" (1916), should be read in connection with the preliminary report made in January of 1915.

The report is interesting in content and both aptly and amply illustrated. Mr. Nolen in planning his main thoroughfares, works them out along the lines of the following principles: (1) That all main lines must be planned by some central city authority; (2) that arterial streets and roads must be adequate not only for present, but also for future needs of inter-communication; (3) that efficiency now requires separate lines and tracks for the three vehicles of three distinct speeds; (4) that minor roads should be gathered up into secondary streets and brought into main thoroughfares only at fairly long intervals, in order to decrease danger and delay; (5) that at these junctions ample space for traffic should be provided; (6) that these main thoroughfares should include a view not only of industrial and residential districts, but also of areas for recreation; (7) that a system of varying street widths is more efficient and more economical and more stable; (8) that in new suburban areas adequate widths on the main roads should be provided. In other words, the city planning of the present day plans not so much for beauty, though not neglectful of beauty, as for utility. Zones are provided for business and industrial districts, for parks and open spaces, for first and for second residential districts and for tenement districts. All are properly located with a view to traffic, access to industrial plants, prevailing wants, transportation facilities and needs, *etc.* The legal means to be adopted for carrying out the plans are also included as are the plans for financing the